

An early North-Western Karaim  
Bible translation from 1720.  
Part 3. A contribution to the question of the *stemma*  
*codicum* of the Eupatorian print from 1841

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**Abstract**

The present article is an addition to a description of manuscript III-73, which contains the earliest known Western Karaim Torah translation (from 1720) along with the North-Western Karaim translation of four books of Ketuvim (as a Haphtarah) – more precisely, the translation of the Book of Ruth, the Book of Jeremiah, Ecclesiastes and the Book of Esther. The linguistic peculiarities of the Torah were presented in NÉMETH (2014b). The linguistic peculiarities of the Haphtarah, based on an edition of the Book of Ruth, were presented in NÉMETH (2015). This paper, in turn, contains remarks that stem from a comparison of manuscript III-73 to the Eupatorian print – written in Crimean (Eastern) Karaim with some elements of Crimean Turkish – and serves to contribute to discussion concerning the *stemma codicum* of the latter.

**Keywords**

Karaim philology, earliest Bible translations, North-Western Karaim, Middle North-Western Karaim, the Book of Ruth, the harmony shift, consonant harmony

**1. Preliminary remarks**

This article is an addition to NÉMETH (2015), in which a manuscript containing the oldest known Western Karaim translation of four books of Ketuvim (from ca. 1720) has been presented<sup>1</sup> – based on the Book of Ruth. In that paper, in

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<sup>1</sup> The manuscript in question is stored under the catalogue number III-73 in a private collection in Poland, the owner of which wishes to remain, for the time being, anonymous. It contains a translation of the Torah (1 r<sup>o</sup> – 341 r<sup>o</sup>) and a Haphtarah (four books

the critical apparatus attached to the North-Western Karaim text, a comparison to the Eupatorian print from 1841 written in Crimean (Eastern) Karaim<sup>2</sup> and partially also to the Krymchak *Targum* edited by Ianbay & Erdal (1998) has been offered. This paper contains additional remarks that stem from a comparison between manuscript III-73 and the Eupatorian print (referred to as Eup. 1841) and serves to contribute to discussion concerning the *stemma codicum* of the latter.

For the linguistic material, I redirect the reader to NÉMETH (2015), published in this very volume of Karaite Archives – in order to avoid unnecessary repetitions in this article.

## 2. The Eupatorian translation contrasted to manuscript III-73

### 2.1. Differences

#### 2.1.1. Dialectal differences

The vast majority of differences constitute more-or-less regular dialectal discrepancies. The most conspicuous are the phonetic differences (in roots and suffixes) between Western and Eastern Karaim (partially being a result of Oghuzic influence, which makes the Eupatorian print and the Krymchak *Targum* presented by IANBAY & ERDAL 1998 more alike than the text in III-73 and the *Targum*), cf. e.g. *aty* ‘his name’ (6)<sup>3</sup> vs. *ady* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), WKar. *-men* 1<sup>st</sup> sg. person marker vs. EKar. *-myn* ~ *-my* ‘id.’<sup>4</sup>, WKar. *-biz* 1<sup>st</sup> pl. person

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of Ketuvim: Book of Ruth (342 r<sup>o</sup> – 347 v<sup>o</sup>), the Book of Jeremiah (348 r<sup>o</sup> – 358 r<sup>o</sup>), the Ecclesiastes (358 v<sup>o</sup> – 372 v<sup>o</sup>), and the Book of Esther (373 r<sup>o</sup> – 385 v<sup>o</sup>), both copied in Kukizów by Simcha ben Chananiël (died ca. 1720). The four books of Ketuvim could possibly have been translated by the copyist himself. For more information concerning this manuscript see NÉMETH (2014a: 354–355; 2014b: 110–113; 2015).

<sup>2</sup> See WALFISH (2003: 936 [2.13]). I would like to express my thanks to Prof. Dr. Piotr Muchowski (Poznań) for providing me with digital copies of the relevant folios.

<sup>3</sup> Numbers in brackets provided after quoted data indicate line numbers in manuscript III-73. In most cases, only one line number is indicated, even if the word appears multiple times. More than one line number is indicated only if it is for some reason important. The line number allows the reader to identify the verse in which the respective word is attested. Based on the latter, the word or fragment in question can easily be identified in the Eupatorian print.

<sup>4</sup> The variant *-my* of the latter is attested e.g. in *bolyrmymy* ‘will I be?’ and *doğuryrmymy* ‘will I give birth?’ (Eup. 1841; both in Ruth 1:12) and is very frequent in QB, cf. e.g. *izlär-mi* ‘I will seek’ (Proverbs 23:35 on folio 60 v<sup>o</sup>).

marker vs. EKar. *-myz* ‘id.’, *bunda* ‘here’ (91) vs. *munda* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), *bundan* ‘from this’ (90) vs. EKar. *mundan* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), *bu kečani* ‘this evening’ (34, 147) vs. EKar. *bugäčä ~ bugäžä* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841)<sup>5</sup>, *byla* ‘with’ (24) vs. EKar. *bilän* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), *ertan* ‘morning’ (174) vs. *ertä* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), *jabuštu* ‘to clung to’ (42) vs. *japušty* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), *kibik* ‘like, as if (postp.)’ (108) vs. *gibi ~ kibik* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841; the latter variant attested in Ruth 4:7), *oltur-* ‘to sit; to dwell’ (13) vs. *otur-* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), *savut* ‘vessel’ (95) vs. *sagyt* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), *syjyn-* ‘to take refuge’ (105) vs. *syğyn-* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), *šavağat* ‘mercy’ (131) vs. *šagavat* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), *tuw-* ‘to be born’ (245) vs. *doğ-* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), *ulan* ‘child’ (243) vs. *oğlan* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), *üv* ‘house’ (88) vs. *ev* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841). Despite of the Oghuzic features present in the Eupatorian text, the Crimean translation exhibits incomparably more inherited Kipchak features (than Oghuzic ones), cf. e.g. *ber-* ‘to give’ (Ruth 1:6), *bol-* ‘to be’ (Ruth 1:2), *kel-* ‘to come’ (Ruth 1:2) or the optative *-ğaj* presented in 6.2 below.

Quite characteristic is the irregularly applied rounded vs. unrounded vowel harmony in the Eupatorian print, see e.g. *köñlü* ‘his heart’ (Eup 1841: Ruth 2:13), *qujunğun* ‘anoint yourself (imp.)’ (Eup. 1841: Ruth 3:3) vs. *boldy* ‘was’ (Eup. 1841: Ruth 2:17), *dostyn* ‘his friend (acc.)’ (Eup. 1841: Ruth 3:14), whereas it is very regular in III-73 (despite its archaisms), see NÉMETH (2015).

Another group of dissimilarities on dialectal grounds are those of a morphologic nature: we may encounter different uses of both derivative suffixes and grammatical categories, see e.g. so-called negative infinitive, i.e. WKar. *-mas-qa* vs. EKar. *-ma-maq-qa*<sup>6</sup> attested in *bolmasqa* ‘not to be’ (37) vs. *bolmamaqqa* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841) and *barmasqa* ‘not to go’ (167) vs. *barmamaqqa* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), the inability mood construction, i.e. *bolalma-* used in *bolalmanmen* (< *bolalmammen*) *juluma* ‘I cannot redeem’ (212–213, 215) vs. *al-mamdyr julma*<sup>7</sup> (Eup. 1841), the comparative *-raq* avoided in the Eupatorian

<sup>5</sup> Cf., however, *jarymysynda ol kečäniñ* ‘at midnight’ (Eup. 1841: Ruth 3:8).

<sup>6</sup> Interestingly, according to PRIK (1976: 115) and CHAFUZ (1995: 46) the Eastern Karaim negative infinitive is *-ma-maq*. Perhaps the *-ma-maq-qa* suffix that appears in the Eupatorian translation is a result of a contamination between WKar. *-mas-qa* and EKar. *-ma-maq*?

<sup>7</sup> Again, different means of expressing the inability mood in Eastern Karaim are described in J. SULIMOWICZ (1972: 62), JANKOWSKI (1997: 17), PRIK (1976: 115) and CHAFUZ (1995: 46). The former two authors found the construction *-(a)j al-ma-* attested in texts they have critically edited, whereas in PRIK’s and CHAFUZ’s grammars the *-(y)p bol-ma-* construction mentioned is used in this role. The two latter categories (i.e. the

translation, see *ačyraqty maja sizd'an* 'it grieves me much for your sakes' (38) vs. *ačy boldy maŋa gajet sizdän artyq* 'id.' (Eup. 1841) or *jačšyraqty saja* 'he is better to you' (242) vs. *jačšydyr saŋa [...] artyq* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), the *-doğaç* converb in *ajtadoğaç* 'saying' (58, 115, 202, 245) replaced non-converbial forms in the Crimean print (in Ruth 1:19, 2:15, 4:4, 4:17), the *-uvču* participle in *turuvču* 'standing' (79) or *olturuvčular* 'those sitting' (203) "replaced" by the *-ğan* participle in *turğan* and *oturğanlar* (Eup. 1841), the *-(a)j + -dir* progressive used in three cases in the Eupatorian translation, see e.g. *da muna Boaz keldi* 'and, behold, Boaz came' (76) vs. *keläjdır* 'and, behold, Boaz is coming' (Eup. 1841), the different derivative suffixes e.g. in *oruvču* 'reaper' (74) vs. *oračy* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *ormaq* 'harvest' (136) vs. *oraq* 'id.', *ölčöv* 'measure' (183) vs. *ölčä* 'id.' (Eup. 1841)<sup>8</sup> or *tuvdur-* 'to father, to beget' (248) vs. *doğur-* 'id.' (Eup. 1841).

There are also some syntactic differences that seem to reflect dialectal divergence, such as e.g. the different government of the verb *tap-* in the expression meaning 'to find favour in someone's eyes': in III-73 the verb is governed by the locative case, see *tabajym širinlik közlarında bijimnin* 'let me find favour in the eyes of my Lord' (106–107), whereas in Eup. (1841) the dative case is used in this expression, see *tabajym širinlik közlärinä begim* 'id.'. Another similar example is the government in the expression meaning 'blessed be he' and 'blessed be you' (dat. vs. abl.), see *alğyşlydy ol Adonajğa* (130) vs. *alğyşlydyr YWY-dän* (Eup. 1841), and *alğyşlydyr sen Adonajğa* (166) vs. *alğyşlydyr sen YWY-dän* (Eup. 1841), as well as replacing the locative case with the dative case in *üstujd'a* (182) vs. *üstünä* (Eup. 1841), and the somewhat more frequent use of the indefinite accusative, e.g. in *öluşun [...] satty* 'she sold her share' (200–201) vs. *paj [...] satty* 'id.' (Eup. 1841).

Finally, there is a number of lexical discrepancies that are of dialectal origin, see e.g. *ťora etuvču* 'judge' (2–3) vs. *šara'atčy* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *uvul* 'son' (5) vs. *oğlan* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *taxly* (or *taxli*) 'about, approximately' (13) vs. *qadar* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *nek* 'why' (30) vs. *nučun* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *umsunč* 'hope' (34) vs. *musanč* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *ťora-* 'to bear' (35) vs. *doğur-* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *išan-* 'to

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negative infinitive and the inabilitive) are good examples of the linguistic heterogeneity of Crimean Karaim sources.

<sup>8</sup> The *-a* deverbal nominal derivative suffix is unproductive in North Western Karaim, see ZAJĄCZKOWSKI (1932: 105–106).

hope' (36) vs. *musan*- 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *astral*- 'to be buried' (51) vs. *köml*- 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *čuvla*- 'to resound' (57) vs. *muŋra*- 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *bar* 'all' (57) and *barča* 'id.' (100) vs. *žümlä* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *kučlu* 'powerful, almighty' (60) vs. *qadir* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *tuz* 'field' (73) vs. *tarlov* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *neġar* 'servant' (79) and *qyrqyn* 'maid-servant' (91) vs. *χizmetkar* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *qaruw ber*- 'to answer' (81) vs. *žogap ber*- 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *juvu*- 'to come closer' (110) vs. *juvuqlaš*- 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *pražma* 'roasted grain' (112) vs. *ütkan ašlyq* '(?) id.' (Eup. 1841), *ajt*- 'to say' (114–115) vs. *de*- 'id.' (Eup. 1841, otherwise Kar. *ajt*- is used), *juřakían*- 'to rebuke with anger' (118; for more information see NÉMETH 2015, paragraph 5.4) vs. *qaqy*- 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *buřunčak* 'cloak' (182) vs. *mešpar* 'a cloak-like garment' or 'head-scarf' (Eup. 1841; for more information see NÉMETH 2015, fn. 270), *alyšmaq* 'exchange' (217) vs. *deġiširmäk* 'id.' (Eup. 1841) or *östuřuvču* 'nurse' (244) vs. *daja* 'id.' (Eup. 1841).

### 2.1.2. Potentially preferential differences

A number of morphologic and syntactic differences are not necessarily dialectal, but may also be preferential.

Preferential, as it may seem, is the lexical difference in case both synonyms in each pair are known in both dialects, cf. e.g. *orun* 'place' (19) vs. *jer* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *hanuz* 'yet' (30) vs. *daġyn* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *er* 'husband, men' (31) vs. *erän* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *ös*- 'to grow' (36) vs. *ulġaj*- 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *ünd'a*- 'to call somebody' (59) vs. *ata*- 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *synyqtyr*- 'to harm' (63) vs. *qyjna*- 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *bašlyġynda* 'in the beginning' (66) vs. *ilkindä* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *uruv* 'family' (68) vs. *mišpača* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *tan* 'morning' (177) vs. *ertä* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *tynla*- 'to hear' (89) vs. *ešit*- 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *bujur*- 'to order, to instruct' (93) vs. *symarla*- 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *özġa* 'another' (90, 139) vs. *özgä* ~ *öngä* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *juřak* 'heart' (157) vs. *köñül* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *uč* 'end, edge' (158) vs. *qyjyr* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *haligiña* 'now' (169) vs. *endi* 'id.' (Eup. 1841) or *eřan* 'men' (197) vs. *kiši* 'id.' (Eup. 1841). How preferential these differences may be is visible in case of *tek tur*- 'to rest' (192) vs. *tynč bol*- 'id.' (Eup. 1841): *tek tur*- is noted only for Eastern Karaim in KarRPS (561; s.v. *мәк*).

Possibly of a preferential nature is the wording and word order difference in e.g. *tuġanginča* 'until the end' (140–141) vs. *tavusylġanyňa deġin* (Eup. 1841), *jarty ol kečäda* 'at midnight' (160–161) vs. *jarymysynda ol kečäniň* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *kertiđan ki* 'it is true' (172) vs. *kerti ki* (Eup. 1841), and *Maxlonnun*

*da Kilyonnun* ‘of Mahlon and Chilion’ (223) vs. *Kilyonnyn da Maxlonny* ‘of Chilion and Mahlon’ (Eup. 1841).

If we compare the use of the demonstrative pronouns *ol* and *ošol* in the role of definite articles, we can observe that in the Eupatorian print they are very often omitted even if they are used in the Hebrew text. There are 28 instances of this syntactic category in III-73 being used in sentences in which the Eupatorian equivalents lack them. Moreover, based on OLACH’S (2013: 77) research, we know that in the Halych Karaim Bible Translation the construction *osol ol* + a noun in the accusative case appears to serve as an equivalent for a Hebrew word used with the Hebrew definite article ה prefixed with the accusative marker ת. Based on the material edited here, we may preliminarily say that the same is the case with the North-Western Karaim translation performed in Kukizów (see Table 1).<sup>9</sup> The examples provided below show that in III-73 *ošol* is used to render the Hebr. accusative marker ת (with some exceptions as e.g. in line 131), whereas *ol* reflects the Hebrew definite article. In the Eupatorian print there is no such rule.<sup>10</sup>

Line	III.73	Eup. (1841)	Hebrew original
18	ošol ulusun	ulusun	אֶת־עֲמוּ (Ruth 1:6)
27	ošol avazlaryn	avazlaryn	קוּלָן (Ruth 1:9)
74	ol oruvčularnyn	oraqčylarnyn	הַקְצָרִים (Ruth 2:3)
109	ol ašamaq vaχtta	aš vaχtyna	לְעֵת הָאֶכֶל (Ruth 2:14)
131	da qyldy tirilärbyla	ol tirilär bilän	אֶת־הַחַיִּים (Ruth 2:20)
134	Rut ol Moavly	Rut ol Moavly	רוּת הַמֹּאֲבִיָּה (Ruth 2:21)
136	ošol bar ol ormaqny	žümlä ol oraqny	אֶת כָּל־הַקְצִיר (Ruth 2:21)

<sup>9</sup> According to OLACH’S (2013: 77) investigation in Trakai Karaim Bible translations, the construction *ošol ol* never appears in the above-mentioned constructions. The question remains whether the term Trakai Karaim used in her work also covers the North-Western Karaim used in Kukizów.

<sup>10</sup> May it remain only a preliminary supposition that the lack of correspondence between the Hebrew and the Karaim text in this respect in the Crimean print might be the result of different translating process, namely, that the Eupatorian text was created based on existing Karaim translations (in which there is no significant functional difference between *ošol ol* and *ol* in these constructions), rather than on the Hebrew original.

Line	III.73	Eup. (1841)	Hebrew original
146	ošol yndyryn	yndyryn	אָתְּגֵרְן (Ruth 3:2)
149	ol yndyrġa	ol yndyrġa	הִגֵּרְן (Ruth 3:3)
151	ošol ol orunnu	ol jerni	אָתְּהִמְקִום (Ruth 3:4)
167	šavaġatyjny ol sondraġyny	sonraġy šaġavatynny	חִסְדֵּיךָ הָאֵחָרִיץ (Ruth 3:10)
179	ošol dostun	dostyn	אָתְּרַעְהוּ (Ruth 3:14)
187	ošol barča ne	žümlä ne	אֵת כָּל־אִשָּׁר (Ruth 3:16)
200	öľušun tuznün	paj ol tarlovnny	חֶלֶקֶת הַשָּׂדֶה (Ruth 4:3)
221	qartlarġa	ol qartlarġa	לְקַנִּים (Ruth 4:9)
224	ošol Rutnu ol Moavly qatynny	Rut ol Moavlyny	אֲתֵירוֹת הַמֹּאֲבִיָּה (Ruth 4:10)
229	Ošol ol qatynny	qatynny	אָתְּהָאִשָּׁה (Ruth 4:11)
231	ošol üvün Israelnin	žama‘atyn Israelniŋ	אֲתֵבִית יִשְׂרָאֵל (Ruth 4:11)
235	ošol Rutnu	Rutnu	אֲתֵירוֹת (Ruth 4:13)
241	ošol pirligijni	pirligijni	אֲתֵשִׁיבְתִּיךָ (Ruth 4:15)
243	ošol ol ulanny	oġlanny	אָתְּהִלָּד (Ruth 4:16)
248	ošol Xečronnu	Xečronnu	אָתְּחַצְרוֹן (Ruth 4:18)
249	ošol Ramny	Ramny	אָתְּרָם (Ruth 4:19)

**Table 1.** Examples of the use of the demonstrative pronouns *ol* and *ošol* in the role of definite articles in III.73 and Eup. (1841) – in comparison with the Hebrew original

In manuscript III-73, quite characteristic is the use of an additional personal, reflexive or demonstrative pronoun (above all in phrases in order to reinforce the use of the respective possessive suffix and, in some cases, to disambiguate the translation, which seems to be a result of Slavonic influences; see also NÉMETH 2015 for further details), see e.g. *qatyny anyn* ‘his wife’ (5) vs. *qatyny* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), *kelinlari anyn* ‘her daughters-in-law’ (16) vs. *kelinläri* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841; the latter form theoretically also means ‘their daughter-in-law’), *jalyj senin* ‘your reward’ (104) vs. *jalyŋ* ‘id.’ (Eup. 1841), *ajtty Naami alarġa* ‘Naomi said them’ (29) vs. *ajtty Naami* ‘and Naomi said’ (Eup. 1841), *qajtyqyn*



*send'a* 'return you too' (45) vs. *qajtqyn* 'return' (Eup. 1841), *ulusun öžuñun* 'his people' (18) vs. *ulusyn* 'id.' (Eup. 1841), *qajda ki ölsaj anda ölärmän* (50) 'Where you die, there will I die' vs. *qajda ki ölsäj ölärmän* 'Where you die, will I die' (Eup. 1841). The Krymchak *Targum* stands closer to Eup. (1841) in this respect, but the preferential nature of these differences seems to be supported by the fact that in a number of other cases the Krymchak *Targum* stands lexically closer to manuscript III-73 than to Eup. (1841), cf. e.g. *tuzd'a* 'in the field' vs. *tarlovda* 'id.' (Eup. 1841) and Krmch. *tüzde* 'id.' (IANBAY & ERDAL 1998: 18 [sentence 163]).

### 2.1.3. Different translation

In some fragments, the differences are not based on synonymy or dialectal divergence, but reflect differences in translation strategies.

It is, for instance, very characteristic of the analysed manuscript III-73 that its author complemented the text with additional personal names (used in the role of subject and indirect object, altogether 12 times) in order to disambiguate the translation. In all these cases, the personal names are neither in the Hebrew original nor in the Eupatorian print, cf. e.g. *Da ajtty Naami Rutqa* 'and Naomi said to Ruth' (43) vs. *Da ajtty* 'And she said' (Eup. 1841), or *da ajtty anar Naami* 'and Naomi said to her' vs. *da ajtty anar* 'and she said to her' (Eup. 1841).

The ambiguity of the Hebrew source resulted in translating Hebr. כנף '1. wing; 2. skirt; corner, end' differently, cf. *qanatyjny* 'your wing' (164) vs. *etägiñni* 'your skirt' (Eup. 1841). This is the case most probably in Ruth (1:20), where Hebr. קָרָא 'bitter', is rendered *ačy žanly* 'heavy-hearted; literally: bitter-hearted' (60; the same is in the Krymchak *Targum*) vs. *Mara*, i.e. a personal name in Eup. (1841); cf. also *ačy* 'bitter' in E-P (see SHAPIRA 2014: 170).

In altogether 28 instances, words of slightly different meanings were used in the two translations, cf. e.g. *ačlyq* 'famine' (3) vs. *qytlyq* 'crop failure' (Eup. 1841), *juvuq er* 'kinsman' (67) vs. *biliš er* 'acquaintance' (Eup. 1841), *nerśa* 'matter' (191) vs. *söz* 'word' (Eup. 1841), *bar-* 'to go' (193) vs. *čyqty* 'to leave' (Eup. 1841), *qatyn* 'woman' (235) vs. *qyz* 'girl' (Eup. 1841), etc.

### 2.2. Similarities and conclusions

If we expressed in numbers the differences between the translation of the Book of Ruth found in manuscript III-73 and the translation published in the



Eupatorian print, the total would be seemingly large.<sup>11</sup> But if we take a closer look at the structure of the two texts, it becomes clear that they are close enough to each other to say that the manuscript which constituted the base for the Eupatorian print must have been somewhat related to the analysed manuscript. In fact, the Eupatorian print gives the impression of its being a reworked Western Karaim translation in which those words, grammatical forms, or fragments that sounded unfamiliar were replaced by their Crimean Kipchak Karaim<sup>12</sup> equivalents (cf. e.g. such traces of Ottoman influence as e.g. *žümle*, *değişir-*, *dogur-*, etc.); nevertheless, the structure of the text remained mostly the same. The two verses presented below, Ruth (2:10) and (4:7), underpin this claim:

III.73	Eup. (1841)
Da tuštü juzlari üstünä bašurdu jergä da ajtty anar ne üçün taptym širinlik közlarijda tanyma meni da men jat <u>qatyn men</u> . (Ruth 2:10)	Da tüštü jüzläri üstünä bašurdu jergä da ajty anar ne uçun taptym širinlik közlarijā tanyma meni da men jat. (Ruth 2:10)
Da bu <u>kečinmak edi avaldan</u> Israeldä ol <u>julu-maq</u> üçün da ol <u>alyšmaq</u> üçün qajjam etmä <u>bar</u> soznü suvururedi kiši etigin da beriredi dostuna da bu edi ol <u>šarajat</u> Israeldä. (Ruth 4:7)	Da bu <u>resim burun</u> Israeldä ol <u>julu</u> uçun da ol <u>değişirmäk</u> uçun qajjam etmä <u>žümlä</u> söznü suvururedi kiši etigin da beriredi dostuna da bu edi ol <u>tanyqlıq kibik</u> Israeldä. (Ruth 4:7)

**Table 2.** Ruth (2:10) and (4:7) in III.73 and Eup. (1841)<sup>13</sup>

<sup>11</sup> In my notes, I have listed more than 400 differences between the translations (without listing differences based on the application of rounded vs. unrounded vowel harmony or being the result of regular phonetic diversification).

<sup>12</sup> For this variety of Karaim, see e.g. JANKOWSKI (2015: 204ff.).

<sup>13</sup> Cf. the very similar translation in the Krymchak *Targum*: *Da düštü jüzleri üstüne da baš urdu jerge, da ejtti oña, ne bu taptym širinlik közleriñde tanymağa meni, da men jabanžy [xalqtan qyzlaryndan moavnyñ] (Ruth 2:10; see IANBAY & ERDAL 1998: 18 [sentences 195–196]).* The second sample sentence, however, is constructed differently, cf. *Da bu adet kibik ol vaqta, ki evelden adetlenir edi Jisraelde vaqta ki [...] julularlar edi da degiş eterler edi [...], da qajjam eterler edi žümle bir šij, teşer edi kiši jenini oñ qolunı, da uzatır edi onuñ ilen qinjan joldaşyna, da bulaj adetlenirler edi satyn almağa, žemaaty Jisraelniñ [...]* (Ruth 4:7; see IANBAY & ERDAL 1998: 22–23 [sentences 425–434]).

Obviously, there are verses that exhibit many more differences, cf.:

III.73	Eup. (1841)
Alarğamo <u>işangajdyjyz</u> neginča ki <u>öskajlar</u> alar <u>üçünmo</u> zabun bolğajdyjyz bolmasqa er-artyna <u>qylmajyz</u> bunu <u>qyzlarym</u> ki <u>açyraqty</u> <u>maja sizdan</u> ki <u>çyqty</u> maja <u>xyşşymy</u> <u>Adonajyn</u> . (Ruth 1:13)	Alarğamy <u>musanyrsyz</u> <u>deginča</u> ki <u>ulğajğajlar</u> alarğamy <u>keçigirsiz</u> bolmamaqqa <u>ergä</u> joq <u>qyzlarym</u> ki <u>açy boldy</u> <u>maņa gajet sizdan</u> ar-tyq ki <u>çyqty</u> maņa maja <u>xyşşymy</u> <u>YWY-nyñ</u> (Ruth 1:13)
Da ajtty Rut <u>jadatmağyn</u> maja kemişma seni qajtma artyndan ki <u>ančağ</u> qajry ki barsaj <u>bar-yrmen</u> da qajda ki qonsaj qonarmen <u>ulusuj</u> <u>senin ol</u> bolur <u>ulusum</u> da <u>Tenrij</u> <u>senin ol</u> bolur <u>Tenrim</u> . (Ruth 1:16)	Da ajtty Rut <u>jalbarmagyn</u> maņa kemişmä seni qajtma artyndan ki <u>qajda</u> ki barsaj <u>barymyn</u> da qajda ki qonsaj qonarmen <u>ulusyn</u> <u>ulusym</u> da <u>Tanryñ</u> <u>Tanrym</u> . (Ruth 1:16)

**Table 3.** Ruth (1:13) and (1:16) in III.73 and Eup. (1841)<sup>14</sup>

Still, the differences in the great majority of cases are can be reduced to common dialectal differences (see 2.1.1) or are simply preferential (see 2.1.2). Discrepancies that would allow us to assign the two sources to two different translation traditions, i.e. differences constituting distinct translation strategies, are not numerous (see 2.1.3). Finally, it must be remembered that these two translations were prepared almost 120 years apart, and the Eupatorian translation must have been adjusted to the requirements of what was then the current tempora.

Obviously, we must also keep in mind that the relatively small linguistic distance between these two translations might be also explained by the fact that both translators could have been working on the same Hebrew source.

<sup>14</sup> Interestingly, the Krymchak versions of Ruth (1:13) and (1:16) are much different, too, cf. *Belki olarğa siz toqtajyrsyz çağ ki öseler, [...] eger olar üçün siz oturmusyz bağlylar, olmamağ üçün evlengenler erge, azytmegejsiz žanymny, ki azydir maņa artyq sizden, ki çyqty mende xyşym alyndan yeya-nyñ* (Ruth 1:13; IANBAY & ERDAL 1998: 16 [sentence 76–84]) and *Da ajtty Rut qaherletmegejsin meni, taşlamağa seni qajtmağa ardyndan [...] žümle nege ki varsaj varajym [...] žümle jerde ki qonsaj qonajym [...] xalqyn olajym [...] Tanryñ oldyr Tenrym* (Ruth 1:16; IANBAY & ERDAL 1998: 16 [sentence 93–113]).

This is especially visible if we compare both of them with the Krymchak *Targum* edited by IANBAY & ERDAL (1998).<sup>15</sup> The latter exhibits different linguistic solutions, but mostly with reference to the commentaries added to the original text – otherwise the structure of the text is in many cases very similar to the Karaim translations. The reason for this structural closeness still awaits a thorough investigation, even if we admit that there are obviously verses which are almost completely different from the translation we see in the other two Karaim versions, see e.g. Ruth 1:13, 1:16, 2:7, 2:12, etc. It might be, for instance, very interesting to compare the Krymchak *Targum* with some of the early translations of the Bible into Ottoman Turkish (on these, see e.g. KNÜPPEL 1999, 2000–2002, 2002) – this might cast some additional, valuable light onto the way Biblical texts were translated.

As we said, however, the relatively small linguistic distance between the two Karaim versions of the Book of Ruth and the large number of typically Western Karaim features we find in the print (see below) rather suggest that the Eupatorian translation of the Book of Ruth was prepared based on an earlier Western Karaim version or an Eastern Karaim manuscript that was, again, patterned on a Western Karaim original (e.g. based on the one copied by Jaakov ben Mordechai in 1672 as claimed by POZNAŃSKI 1916: 88 and SHAPIRA 2013: 134–141; 157–158). Western Karaim pattern might be the explanation of the “archaisms” noticed by GORDLEVSKIJ (1928: 87–88) in the Eupatorian print (he contrasted it with some other Eastern Karaim manuscripts). In this case, the Book of Ruth would be another portion of the Eupatorian edition linked with Western Karaim sources after SHAPIRA’S (2013) attempt to prove a similar point with reference to the Book of Nehemiah (see SHAPIRA 2013: 134–141; 157–158). He claims that the language of the Eupatorian edition was “not a new translation, but rather a hasty attempt to Tatarize – or even vulgarize – earlier translations existing in manuscripts” and that the editors “took the ones written in Karaim language brought apparently from Łuck and/or Kozizow” (SHAPIRA 2003: 696; 2013: 134). Our view is basically the same, even if I see a lack of decisive philological evidence that would support the idea

<sup>15</sup> A comparison of the text of two Eastern Karaim translations of the Book of Ruth with the Krymchak *Targum* was presented by SHAPIRA (2013: 165–170). One of the referential manuscripts is termed “a MS from Troki (?)” in SHAPIRA’S article (2013), which gives the deceptive impression that the text might be written in North-Western Karaim, which is not the case.

hidden behind “Tatarizing”, the “hasty attempts” and the “artificial language tailored for a hallowed purpose” (see SHAPIRA 2013: 178) he mentions. I find JANKOWSKI’S (2009: 508) opinion, i.e. that “at least some manuscripts employed by the editors [of the Eupatoria Bible] were written in North-Western Turkic Karaim, but the editors ‘modernized’ the language in many passages, bringing it closer to Crimean Turkish” much more balanced or at least better formulated.

Proving the North-Western roots of the translation of the Book of Ruth in Eup. (1841) seems feasible in light of the linguistic data. Besides the far-reaching structural similarity mentioned above, we also see that in Eup. (1841) a number of North-Western Karaim lexemes and morphemes occur that are not recorded in Eastern Karaim texts or are rather not characteristic of them, cf. e.g. WKar. *bašaq* ‘ear of a grain’ (Ruth 2:2; see *kolos* of Slavonic origin in line 71 of III-73; see also KarRPS 109), absent from the reliable Eastern Karaim dictionaries I know of, i.e. from AQTAY & JANKOWSKI (2015), ÇULHA (2006), LEVI (1996), and CHAFUZ (1995)<sup>16</sup>, or the 3<sup>rd</sup> person present optative *-ğaj* suffix (being rather not characteristic of Eastern Karaim, see e.g. PRIK 1976: 145–146; CHAFUZ 1995: 61–62; JANKOWSKI 1997: 16) used even if there is an imperative or perfect conditional mood form in the respective place in III-73, see e.g. *qylğyn* ‘do’ (231) vs. *qylğajsyn* ‘may you do’ (Eup. 1841), *atağyn* at ‘be famous’ (232) vs. *atağajsyn* at ‘may you be famous’ (Eup. 1841), *atalsyn aty* ‘his name be famous’ (239) vs. *atalğaj aty* ‘may his name be famous’ (Eup. 1841), *ki ajtsajdym* ‘if I should say’ (33) vs. *ki ajtqajmyn* ‘in order me to say’ (Eup. 1841).

All in all, the stemma codicum of the Eupatorian edition deserves a detailed and meticulous investigation, especially since we know that its language is not homogeneous (see e.g. JANKOWSKI 2009: 508). I hope, however, that this humble contribution will bring us at least one small step closer to final conclusions.

## Abbreviations

**abl.** = ablative; **acc.** = accusative; **dat.** = dative; **Hebr.** = Hebrew; **imp.** = imperative; **Kar.** = Karaim; **Krmch.** = Krymchak; **pl.** = plural; **postp.** = postposition; **sg.** = singular; **WKar.** = Western Karaim.

<sup>16</sup> I have no access to Sinani (1970, 2007).

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## Handwritten sources and old prints

III-73 = Handwritten, vocalised translation of the Torah, the Book of Ruth, the Book of Jeremiah, Ecclesiastes, and the Book of Esther into north-western Karaim from Kukizów from 1720 (the Torah) and ca. the 1720s (the other books). Written in North-Western Karaim. Kept in a private archive whose owner wishes to remain anonymous.

E-P = A manuscript that formerly belonged to the Elyashevich-Babadjan (*Ельясевич-Бабаджан*) family. The manuscript is lost. A fragment of it is edited in SHAPIRA (2014).

Eup. = A four-volume edition of the Tanakh in Crimean Karaim (with some elements of Crimean Turkish); printed in Eupatoria (Gözleve) in 1841.

QB = A manuscript that contains the translation of the Psalms, the Proverbs, the Book of Job, the Book of Daniel, the Book of Ezra, and the Book of Nehemiah; held formerly by the Karaim Library (so called Qaraj Bitikligi) in Eupatoria under the shelf number 1084.

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